

## STRANGLER SUSPECTS PUT ON THE RACK.

Lellis Says Byrnes and Meyers  
Left Him Long Enough to  
Have Killed Mrs. Tucker.

Police Think the Motive Was Rob-  
bery and Are Making a Strong  
Chain of Evidence.

CORONER MILES IS HARD AT WORK.

He Has Had Wax Casts Made of the Tel-  
tale Footprints—The Two Families  
Meet at Mrs. Tucker's  
Funeral.

The tolling of the bell in the tower of the little stone church on the ridge high above the valley of the Nepperhan, near Tuckahoe, at 11 a. m. yesterday, called the villagers to the funeral of Mrs. Annie Tucker, who was strangled in her lonely home on the opposite slope last Monday afternoon.

The pews were nearly all occupied, for Mrs. Tucker and her husband had long been communicants of St. John's, and little George, their three-year-old son, was in the infant class. He was not with the mourners, for the stranger had left him in the room with his mother's corpse, and he had not yet recovered from the shock.

Edmund T. Tucker, the young widower, walked down the aisle on the arm of his dead wife's mother. He was dressed in sober black. Behind him came the sisters-in-law, pale-cheeked but handsome girls, and after them Laights and Tuckers without number. The Episcopal service was read by the rector, the Rev. John W. Buckmaster, who spoke in a prelude of the terrible mystery surrounding the taking of the wife and mother. In his prayer he invoked divine aid for the officers charged with bringing the wicked to justice, and two stalwart detectives in plain clothes sat unobserved, drinking in his words and keeping sharp watch on every one of the mourners and spectators. It was a strange funeral, when one knew it was hardly a cordial meeting of the Laights and the Tuckers, families which have been at odds since four years ago, when the marriage was dissolved took place.

THOUGHTS THAT CAME.  
Every one in the Nepperhan Valley knows the history of that marriage, and why the Tuckers opposed it. In the first place, the bride was fourteen years older than the groom. Then, too, it was known she had not lived with her first husband since their marriage day, and that she had had a child, long since dead. Again, she had no divorce save that which comes after a desertion continuing seven years. All these thoughts must have come to the widely parted families as they sat in their pews listening to the lines of the service for the dead.

At noon the funeral procession set out over the muddy road for Scarsdale, where "ashes to ashes" was said over a short and narrow grave in St. James's Cemetery. It did not take a few coffins to hold the frail little body of the stranger's victim, for she was only five feet tall and weighed only ninety pounds.

It was nearly 4 p. m. when the widower and his mother and sisters-in-law reached the old home, which is now at all hours of the day and night surrounded by officers of the law, hunting clues to the identity of the stranger and accomplices, for the authorities now believe that three men were implicated in the crime, and all three are locked in cells at Police Headquarters in Yonkers.

TUCKER'S DETECTIVE WORK.

When a reporter for the Journal walked up the hillside path lined with tall elms, Tucker stood on the front porch talking earnestly with Coroner Miles.

"You know," said the Coroner, "Mr. Tucker has been doing some detective work on his own account, and it has been of great value to the prosecution. In the first place, it was he who produced the watch thought to have been stolen from the house. He told me he was going to Hoffmiller's jewelry store in Mount Vernon, where it had been bought, to get the number of it. When he asked they told him they had it in their case for repairs, the murdered woman having brought it there without her husband's knowledge. So we have that. Since then we have missed a little flat gold chain with a locket attached which Mrs. Tucker had had since she was a baby. In the locket was a lock of her baby hair."

"About this murder: I have been working on it from the moment it was reported, and I think I have the matter in hand pretty well. In the first place there is no use paying the slightest attention to the early history of the couple. Whatever may have been the wife's troubles before she married Tucker, they were at the time of her death and had been during the four years of their married life a most devoted couple."

THE MOTIVE ROBBERY.

"Look in that house, and tell me what you see. Every apartment is perfect. The house is as neat as a pin from top to bottom. Even the chickens and the ducks have a contented, well-fed look. Do you see the little boy's pets out there—two rabbits, one of which lies dead on the top of the rabbit house for lack of his attention? No, I tell you these people are all right, and we must look elsewhere for the perpetrator of the terrible crime."

"The motive was robbery—nothing else. A man—or men—bound to have money went to that house on the hillside, met the woman at the door, and forced an entrance. The rest is all clear enough. Three hundred yards from the house we find the little boy's bank, crushed in with a stone, money gone—with the exception of 70 cents—which shows the hurry the robber was in, and then those tracks in the soft mud of the roadside, leading to the woods where the three men we now have under arrest are known to have been cutting birch roots for canes."

"I have gone pretty thoroughly over the ground, and I can tell you now we have a strong circumstantial case against Michael Byrnes, James G. Lellis and Charles Meyers. There is no manner of doubt that all three men were at the house on the afternoon of the murder. I can't tell you all I have found out just yet without putting the defense in possession of valuable facts, but those men will be held by my order, and I will produce strong evidence against them at the inquest to be held next Wednesday."

TELL-TALE TRACKS.

"The tracks about the house tell the story. They point to Byrnes but too plainly. The holes in the shoes at exactly over

## SCENES AND PERSONS FIGURING IN THE YONKERS MYSTERY.



The floor through which the murderer is supposed to have escaped.

Where the Victim Lived.

The cross in the roadway marks the spot where little George Tucker's bank was found, near which are the footprints into which the shoes of Michael Byrnes.

Where the Victim Lived.

He would make out before he left for the night.

CLEWS IN MEASUREMENTS.

Charles Byrnes, a brother of one of the suspects, who lives at No. 343 East Forty-first street, this city, called and had a long talk with the Chief. He said he felt sure his brother had not killed the woman, as he was a poor, besotted fellow who was his own worst enemy.

MR. TUCKER'S THEORY.

Edmund T. Tucker is a mild-mannered young fellow. He is slight of build, short of stature, and has bright red cheeks. His hair and mustache are black. He impresses one as an ideal, church-going young man—the young man who would pass the plate and act as usher and help trim the church at Christmas and at Easter. As he sat in the little parlor yesterday afternoon one of his sisters-in-law, beside him and now and then ran her hand over his feverish temples, which attempt to soothe him he in no way resisted. Mr. Tucker gave his theory of the crime.

"I think," he said, "the man my mother saw coming up the lane was the murderer and that his only motive was robbery. There is no doubt he was a man in sore need of money. My mother says the man saw carried a basket, but at that great distance she might have easily mistaken a bag for a basket, and one of the men locked up is known to have carried a bag."

"Again, the matter of the murderer wearing rubber boots has led to confusion, for the footprints in the mud are those of shoes. My little boy may have said to others that the murderer wore rubber boots, but he never said so to me. He told me the man 'that struck mamma'—for that is all he admits as yet—wore shoes. He described him as an old man and roughly dressed."

"The little fellow is still at my mother's house and is feeling much better to-day. He is up and about the house. It is hard to get many facts out of a boy only three years old, but from what he tells me, the murderer struck him across the forehead with a cane and then on the neck with a toy hammer which lay on the floor."

"The detectives have another theory. They believe the little fellow ran at the murderer during the struggle with my wife, and that he turned and choked the boy into insensibility. It may be so, but the child says the man struck him with the hammer, and then he knew no more."

DOOR KEY MISSING.

"The little bank containing the three Columbian half dollars, the \$2.50 gold-piece and the lot of bills—probably \$25 in all—was in this bureau drawer in our sleeping room. The murderer strangled my wife, ran upstairs after the money and left the house by the side door, running for the woods. He locked the front door guard against surprise, and we haven't found the key yet."

"My theory is that the murderer was still in the house when the girls—Maud and Ethelbert Laight—called after school to get the milk pail. He must have seen them coming up the lane and have pulled the corpse from the parlor into the entry leading to the side door, where it was found. They looked in at the window, and saw that the cooking stove was red hot. They saw that the dining table had been overturned, and that things in the room were in confusion."

"One of the Laight boys, who was passing at the time the murder must have been committed, says he heard a noise in the house, as if some one were screaming. That was about 4:30 p. m., shortly before Mrs. Cornelius Laight saw the man vault over the fence and run for the woods."

It was a busy day at Yonkers Police Headquarters. Detectives were coming and going, and Captain Mangin's left hand tied in a white cloth because of a recent injury—sat in state and heard all reports. Late in the afternoon he asked the Coroner what he was going to do with the three suspects, as he was getting nervous about having to hold them so long on his own responsibility. Coroner Miles told him to hold them on warrants he

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By order of Captain Mangin official measurements were taken at the Tucker house. The first found were near the well in the rear. A plank walk extends from the steps in front of the house to this well, on which the murderer could walk without leaving a tell-tale trail. The distance from the front door to the well was found to be eighty feet. From the marks found there to the tracks down the slope the distance was found to be 395 feet. From there to those most important footprints beside the road, the distance was found to be 1,035 feet. From there to the point where the lid of the child's bank was found, the distance was 165 feet.

The stride was found to be 3 feet 6 inches, which the police take to indicate that the crime was committed by a big man. Others think the man was running when these strides were taken, and this is borne out by the fact that the lines of the inside of the footprints are heaviest, showing that the feet did not rest evenly on the ground, as they would in walking. Captain Mangin got a note signed "Justice," which said: "You are on the wrong track. Come to the pawnshops here and you will find something." A lawyer named Hunt, who has been acting for Lellis, also offered some information. He said Meyers was a tenant of a man named Dan Cash, of Williamsbridge, who used to keep a store there. He said Meyers had worked on the Williamsbridge sewer up to June 9 last, when consolidation took effect, since which he had had no work. He has a wife and three children and lives at present by begging and doing odd jobs. Cash thinks pretty well of Meyers and has given him money at various times.

As to Byrnes, Hunt professed not to be so well informed. He understood he was a hard drinker and had done no work for four or five years. He had often seen him fishing off Buhler's dock, and knew he ate the fish he got. He was known to spend most of his time in Melrose's saloon, Ninth street and White Plains road, Williamsbridge. On Monday night Byrnes was there and had 25 cents, 10 of which he spent for beer.

Byrnes was then called before Captain Mangin and closely questioned about having this money. First he said he had twenty-five cents, which he said he got by selling a piece of carpet from his barn to a woman named Mrs. Leyback. A few moments later he said he had thirty-five cents, and then the captain got disgusted, and ordered him taken below. Coroner Miles arrived at the moment the suspect was leaving the room, and began asking questions on his own account.

Policeman Cooley, of Williamsbridge, was there, and told the Coroner Byrnes belonged to a gang of fighters who stayed around Lellis's stable and caused the police a great deal of trouble. He said they were a very hard crowd.

The police have a new theory, based on the fact that Meyers has owned up to being left-handed. They say the marks on the strangled woman's throat indicate that the choking was done by a left-handed man. Another discovery is that the choking was done by a man whose finger nails are very short, and Byrnes is known to have the habit of biting his nails, so that there would be no chance of their leaving an indentation on the woman's throat. No nail marks were found.

James T. Lellis is a ruddy-faced little man, who still wears the outfit of a mud digger, though he has been out of the contracting business since last June. He said last night:

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## ANOTHER POLICE BILL.

Senator Pavay Proposes to Give the Police  
Board Wholesale Power of  
Removal.

Albany, Jan. 30.—Senator Pavay to-day introduced a bill in some respects similar to Senator Lexow's Police Reorganization bill for New York City. It provides that the Board of Police of the City of New York shall in addition to the powers and duties now conferred possess the power hereby conferred for a period of six months from and after the date of the passage of this act, and may frame rules for the proper exercise of said powers and may from time to time amend the same.

It shall be the duty of said Board to reorganize the Police Department of the City of New York and to that end to examine into the qualifications of the chief, deputy chief, inspectors, captains and sergeants of police, acting in each case either on their own motion or by direction of the Mayor, or on complaint of citizens, or otherwise, and to disqualify any person, after examination, shall not in their judgment be possessed of the qualifications necessary for the maintenance of the proper moral condition and discipline and the efficient conduct and administration of said Police Department.

When such Board of Police shall have decided to disqualify any such officer of the uniformed force the Board shall file with the clerk of the Police Department a certificate signed by the commissioners and composing such Board, or a majority of them, which shall contain a concise statement of the reasons for disqualifying all disqualifications so made shall be final and there shall be no right of review on appeal from the decision of said Board.

The Board of Police may employ counsel and compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books and papers. The police officers of the uniformed force are required to be allowed counsel only by the permission of the Police Board.

Senator Muninger to-day introduced a bill providing that any member of the New York City police force who has performed duty therein for a period of twenty years or upward, who has served in the National Guard, who is an honorably discharged soldier of the National Guard, must be relieved from police service on his own application in writing to the Police Board, providing there are no charges pending against him. His name shall be placed upon the pension roll and his annual pension shall not be less than one half of his salary during his lifetime.

Dined with Speaker Fish.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 30.—Speaker Fish gave the first of his dinners to members of the Legislature to-night at his family residence here. He entertained about a dozen members at dinner some evening each week until the list is exhausted, the same as last year. Those invited for this evening were: Governor C. T. Satter, Senators Wray, Lexow, Malby, Mulholland, Stranahan, Wilcox, E. C. Stewart, Blandish, and P. J. Higgins, and Assemblymen O'Grady and Stanchfield.

## ONE YEAR MORE OF OFFICE.

The District-Attorney of Kings County to  
Have His Term Increased.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 30.—The bill of Mr. Austin to extend the term of the District Attorney of Kings County came up on second reading in the Assembly to-day. Mr. McKown, of Kings, moved to strike out the enacting clause for the purpose of an explanation. Messrs. Wilson and Brennan, of Kings, defended the bill.

The claim made by them was that the bill must pass, this only provided for the extension of the term, which the new Constitution made mandatory upon the Legislature. Mr. Stanchfield questioned the constitutionality of the bill and its sincerity. It would be a political significance, and even if the Constitution did provide for an increase of the term the fact was that the District Attorney was elected in Kings County for but three years.

Now the proposition was to give him a term of four years by passing a bill for him, when he had already taken an oath of office for three years. Mr. Stanchfield ridiculed the position of the majority with reference to the new Constitution. They were very anxious now to live up to the Constitution, but the fact that they were trying to do this by a bill was a contradiction. To evade the anti-pass section of the Constitution, was well known.

Mr. McKown made a defense of the bill. The people of Kings County demanded the measure, which was in all respects a just one. An amendment was offered by Mr. McKown, placing the term of the District Attorney at two years. After a short argument the amendment was lost. Mr. Butts offered an amendment, making the term of the New York City Clerk four years. Mr. O'Grady moved the previous question upon the amendment, stating that if Mr.

Charles "Parson" Davies, Sullivan's

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following telegram late last night from Mrs. Sullivan:

"John is in pretty bad condition. The doctor fears erysipelas. If symptoms do not appear, he will be all right in four days."

## WAIT ON MORTON'S WORD.

Platt's Union League Enemies Hoping the  
Governor Will Show Them Some  
Mark of Favor.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 30.—The Republican split in New York County still occupies the attention of legislators. From private advice received by politicians to-day the fight against Mr. Platt by the Union League faction will be waged vigorously until Mr. Platt is effaced from the political checker-board of New York State. The new organization in New York City is to be pushed, and a contesting delegation in all likelihood go to the St. Louis Convention. Should there be a contesting delegation, however, it will be a mortification. The Governor's personal popularity with the Union League members has counterbalanced the latter's enmity toward Mr. Platt.

All that the Union League adherents have asked for is a declaration of intention from Governor Morton to the effect that he is not Mr. Platt's personal candidate, but the candidate of the Republicans of the entire State. Consequently, if it is possible, some special mark of favor is desired from the Union League by the Governor, the anti-Platt faction in New York will have scored a small victory.

There has been some misapprehension in reference to the Governor's disposition of the protest of Mr. Lautebach was precisely authorized by Mr. Smith when he was here. The Governor, when he received the communication, suggested to Mr. Smith that he would refer the matter to either the State Committee or the New York County Committee. Mr. Smith replied that he would do so. Preparations for the "harmony" dinner at the Executive Mansion, next Tuesday, are well advanced. It is not known how many invitations have been sent out or how many acceptances have been received. Mr. Platt will remain away, so that Cornelius N. Bliss, Mayor Strong, General Samuel Thorne and the other intransigibles of the Union League can attend.

## Important New Bills Introduced.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 30.—Among the bills introduced in the Senate to-day were the following:

By Senator Martin, ratifying the laying out of St. John's Park, New York City, and relieving adjacent owners of part of the assessment by a levy of the city at large.

Senator Connor, prohibiting the laying out of streets through lands of the University of New York.

Senator Ford, allowing street railroads on West Ninety-sixth street, New York City.

Senator Brown, providing that the police pension fund of New York City shall be applied to the assistance of families, the heads of which have died in service.

## Millionaire Dwyer Murdered.

Brenham, Tex., Jan. 30.—Thomas Dwyer, a millionaire, was murdered last night by unknown persons in his office, in the center of the business portion of the city, robbery being the purpose. He was then taken to a distant jail through which his mutilated remains were found. He was seventy-six years of age and leaves a widow.

## Black Hall, Conn.

Black Hall, Conn.

## JOHN L. SULLIVAN GOT UP TO SPAR.

It Was Only One Round with  
"Paddy" Ryan, but It Sent  
Him Back to Bed.

Ex-Champion Not Yet Fully Convinced  
That He Did Actually Fall  
from That Train.

## ERYSIPELAS TO BE DREADED NOW.

Dr. J. N. Dixon, His Physician, Declared  
That John L. Will Not Be Able to  
Rejoin His Company for a Week  
Or Ten Days at Least.

John L. Sullivan, the ex-champion, while on his way from Rock Island, Ill., to Springfield on Wednesday morning, fell from the rear platform of a Rock Island and Florida train. He was picked up at the bottom of a ditch, unconscious and bleeding from many cuts about his face and head. His wounds were dressed, and it was with great difficulty that they could be replaced. He recovered sufficiently to continue his trip to Springfield.

Springfield, Ill., Jan. 30.—John L. Sullivan is confined to his room at his hotel here and it is not probable that he will be able to leave for several days. It was not until this morning that he realized how badly he had really been hurt. In fact, he is not yet fully convinced that he fell from the train.

At noon to-day he held the last thing that now occurs to him about the ride was his talking with the treasurer of the company with which he is connected. The treasurer, Mr. Harry Glekauf, and Mrs. Sullivan were sitting in a seat together when Sullivan went out the rear door of the car.

Sullivan further said that yesterday afternoon is a perfect blank to him. He does not remember passing through Peoria, has no recollection of changing cars, and recalls nothing of the circumstances when he came to his senses in the baggage car, and asked that the door be thrown open so he could get out.

The old fighter made a mistake last evening, when he insisted on appearing at the Opera house, where the members of the company protested strongly against his leaving the hotel, and it was the order of his physician, Dr. J. N. Dixon, that he should not attempt it. Sullivan replied that he would go on the stage if it proved his last public appearance on earth, and appear he did.

## SPARRING WITH "PADDY" RYAN.

He not only appeared, but he sparred "round with 'Paddy' Ryan, and at the end of it walked to the front of the stage and thanked the cheering throng with applause. The round was made a short one because it was seen by the members of the company that Sullivan was almost exhausted. A ten he forewarned him that he had dressed a few hours before and had been in the hospital for several days. Sullivan said he would go on the stage if it proved his last public appearance on earth, and appear he did.

He complains of pains in the stomach, and it is thought that he may have sustained internal injuries of a serious character. The attending physician is now apprehensive that he will set in. Sullivan is now in a hospital, and is unable to move. He is now in a hospital, and is unable to move. He is now in a hospital, and is unable to move.

Dr. Dixon expressed his opinion that Sullivan would be able to return to his company in a few days. He said that Sullivan was a very brave man, and that he was a very brave man. He said that Sullivan was a very brave man, and that he was a very brave man.

All the anxious crowds and the local admirers of the ex-champion made their way to the hotel to inquire after his condition. Telegrams from all over the country were received by Sullivan, and he was able to read them. He was able to read them, and he was able to read them.

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